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Agenda items 15, 18, 20, 24, 25, 33, 42, 70 and 74

Culture of peace

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Report of the International Court of Justice

Oceans and the law of the sea

Letter dated 28 October 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Nicaragua to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to write to you to transmit a copy of the letter signed by our Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Manuel Coronel Kautz, on 26 October 2010, in reply to the letter of protest sent by the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica, Ms. Martha Núñez, on 21 October, regarding the dredging operations by Nicaragua in the San Juan River, in Nicaraguan territory, in accordance with the rights established in the Jerez-Cañas Boundary Treaty and the Cleveland and Alexander arbitral awards (see annex).

In that connection, I should be grateful if you would have the present note and its annex circulated as a documents of the General Assembly under agenda items 15, 18, 20, 24, 25, 33, 42, 70 and 74.

(*Signed*) María **Rubiales de Chamorro**
Deputy Minister for Foreign Affaires and
Permanent Representative of Nicaragua to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 28 October 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Nicaragua to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I refer to note No. DM-412-10 of 21 October 2010 from the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship, addressed to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua, Mr. Samuel Santos López, concerning the dredging operations in the San Juan River.

In that connection, the Government of Nicaragua categorically rejects the claims made in the diplomatic note, since all the anti-drug operations as well as the clean-up of the San Juan River have been carried out in Nicaraguan territory, in accordance with the rights established in the Jerez-Cañas Boundary Treaty and subsequent Cleveland and Alexander arbitral awards.

The Government of Reconciliation and National Unity hereby vehemently protests against the repeated violations of Nicaraguan territory by troops of the Costa Rica armed forces. The Government of Nicaragua demands that such acts do not recur.

Our Government further rejects the incursion into Nicaraguan territory in recent days by two armed judicial police officers, who were detained by border patrols and returned to the Costa Rican authorities.

The Government of Nicaragua proposes that the Binational Commission immediately resume action to increase the number of boundary markers, on the basis of the rights set out in the Jerez-Cañas Boundary Treaty and subsequent Cleveland and Alexander arbitral awards.

In conclusion, Nicaragua, respectful of the principles of international law, will continue its dredging operations in the river and will safeguard its boundaries and sovereignty, as established in the Jerez-Cañas Boundary Treaty and subsequent Cleveland and Alexander arbitral awards. Nicaragua will also continue to safeguard and defend its boundaries and sovereignty throughout its national territory.

(*Signed*) Manuel **Coronel Kautz**
Acting Minister

United Nations A/65/548

General Assembly

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Sixty-fifth session
Agenda items 63 and 129

Report of the Human Rights Council

Programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011

Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council at its twelfth, thirteenth and fourteenth sessions

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council at its twelfth, thirteenth and fourteenth sessions, in 2009 and 2010 (A/65/333). During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification.

2. The report of the Secretary-General complies with the procedure approved in part V of General Assembly resolution 63/263, in which the Assembly endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Advisory Committee (see A/63/629, para. 10) as to the merit of annual presentations of revised estimates arising from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council.

3. The Advisory Committee notes that the Council, at its twelfth, thirteenth and fourteenth sessions in 2009 and 2010, adopted a number of resolutions and two decisions that give rise to a total requirement of $4,991,600, of which $4,708,500 relates to the biennium 2010-2011 and $283,100 relates to the biennium 2012-2013. The requirements related to the twelfth, thirteenth and fourteenth sessions are summarized in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General, and detailed information on requirements under each resolution and decision is provided in section II of that report.

4. The Secretary-General indicates in paragraph 2 of his report that, although the Council held two special sessions (twelfth and thirteenth special sessions in October 2009 and January 2010, respectively), additional resources did not arise under the regular budget with regard to the decisions taken by the Council.

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5. For the biennium 2010-2011, an amount of $1,284,400 (before recosting) is estimated for the implementation of the activities of a perennial nature called for in resolutions 12/4, 12/23, 12/25, 12/26, 13/4, 13/14, 13/25, 14/6, 14/10 and 14/11 of the Human Rights Council. These provisions have already been made in the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011. Also, an amount of $3,424,100 (before recosting) is estimated for new mandates in connection with resolutions 12/1, 12/15, 12/17, 12/18, 12/21, 12/28, 13/9, 13/11, 13/15, 13/16, 13/24, 14/1, 14/5, 14/10, 14/16, and decisions 12/119 and 13/117. These requirements have not been provided in the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011. The Advisory Committee notes that it is the intention of the Secretary-General to accommodate the amount of $2,940,300 from within the existing appropriation of the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011. The balance of $483,800 relating to resolution 14/1, which is not of a perennial nature, would be sought as commitment authority, comprising $147,000 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, and $336,800 under section 23, Human rights, of the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011.

6. For the biennium 2012-2013, new resources in the amount of $283,100 (before recosting) are estimated for activities of a perennial nature in connection with resolution 14/8. The Committee notes that these resources will be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013.

7. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the additional requirements in the amount of $3,424,100 for the current biennium be accommodated within the resources appropriated under the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 and reported in the context of the second performance report.**

I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the proposed budget for the maintenance and liquidation of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 (A/65/487). The budget proposals relate to the maintenance of the Mission from 1 July to 31 December 2010 and the Mission liquidation period from 1 January to 30 April 2011. During its consideration of the budget proposal, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification.

2. In May 2010, in his note on financing arrangements for MINURCAT (A/64/783), the Secretary-General requested commitment authority with assessment for the period from 1 July to 30 December 2010 because of uncertainty in relation to the continuation of the Mission, which was followed by the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate only to 31 December 2010. The commitment authority requested amounted to $246,598,800 gross ($242,949,500 net), or 36 per cent of the resources appropriated for 2009/10. In its resolution 64/286, the General Assembly granted a commitment authority of $215,000,000 for the operation of the Mission until 31 December 2010. The General Assembly also decided to assess Member States the amount of $184.95 million gross ($182.2 million net).

3. In considering the proposals of the Secretary-General for MINURCAT for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011, the Advisory Committee has taken into account the recommendations of the Board of Auditors related to the Mission and made specific comments thereon, where relevant, in the paragraphs below. The report of the Committee on the report of the Board of Auditors on the accounts of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (A/64/5 (Vol. II), chap. II) is contained in document A/64/708.

4. The Advisory Committee, in its report A/64/660/Add.15, issued its recommendations on the performance report on the budget of MINURCAT for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 (A/64/556).

5. The documents reviewed and used for background by the Advisory Committee in its consideration of the financing of MINURCAT are listed at the end of the present report.

II. Financial position and information on performance for the current period

6. The Advisory Committee was informed that, as at 1 October 2010, actual expenditures amounted to $103,185,900. Projected expenditures from 1 July 2010 to 30 April 2011 amount to $238,915,500. The Committee was also informed that as at 11 October 2010, the cash position of the Mission was $279,008,816. Details of the updated financial position are provided in the annex to the present report.

III. Proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011

A. Mandate and planned results

7. The Security Council, by its resolution 1778 (2007), established MINURCAT with a mandate to help create the security conditions conducive to a voluntary, secure and sustainable return of refugees and displaced persons in eastern Chad and the north-eastern Central African Republic. By its resolution 1923 (2010), the Council extended the mandate of MINURCAT until 31 December 2010, deciding that the military component should be reduced to 2,200 military personnel, 25 military liaison officers and 300 police officers by 15 July 2010, and called upon the Secretary-General to complete the withdrawal of all uniformed and civilian personnel, other than those required for the liquidation of the Mission, by 31 December 2010.

8. The Security Council decided that the Mission should support the Government of Chad in tasks related to the security of civilians and humanitarian workers through continued assistance to the Détachement intégré de sécurité (DIS), support the justice and prison sectors in eastern Chad, support inter-community dialogue and monitoring and contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights, with particular attention to sexual and gender-based violence. Concurrently, the Mission should work to consolidate its achievements in these areas with a view to transition the activities to the Government, in a seamless and sustainable fashion, by 31 December 2010.

9. In his 2010/11 budget proposal, the Secretary-General indicates that the drawdown and liquidation activities will include the following: (a) the repatriation of military personnel and United Nations police officers deployed in the Mission as at 1 July 2010; (b) closing offices and repatriation of staff; (c) finalization, in consultation with United Nations Headquarters, of the assets disposal plan, including the destination of assets to be transferred to other peacekeeping operations; (d) disposal of the Mission's assets, including their transfer to peacekeeping operations and the sale of assets to other international organizations; sale or transfer to the local and national governments; and (e) the development of a plan for the placement of international substantive and support staff in other field missions.

B. Resource requirements

10. The proposed budget for MINURCAT for 2010/11 amounts to $239,096,600, comprising $205,748,500 for the maintenance of the Mission until 31 December 2010 and $33,348,100 for the liquidation of the Mission. This represents a decrease of $451,656,500 or 65.4 per cent compared with the appropriation of $690,753,100 for 2009/10. An analysis of variances is provided in section III of the proposed budget (A/65/487). Major decreases are under military contingents ($127,290,900), United Nations police ($15,299,300), international staff ($44,233,000), facilities and infrastructure ($146,914,400), ground transportation ($17,055,900), air transportation ($71,574,700), communications ($7,988,300), information technology ($4,656,300), medical ($2,457,900) and other supplies, services and equipment ($11,097,200). This is partially offset by increased requirements for national staff ($1,647,800) and consultants ($31,800).

11. The proposed budget provides for the average monthly deployment of 23 military observers, 1,909 military contingent personnel, 117 United Nations police officers, 356 international staff, 546 national staff, 119 United Nations Volunteers, 18 Government-provided personnel and 2 temporary positions for the period from 1 July 2010 to 31 December 2010. The proposed budget also provides for the average monthly deployment of 118 international staff, 153 national staff and 32 United Nations Volunteers for the liquidation period.

1. Military and police personnel

		Deployment schedule									
		2010						*2011*			
	Authorized strength	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*
Military observers	25	25	22	22	22	17	—	—	—	—	—
Military contingents	2 200	2 144	2 143	2 143	2 129	1 384	509	—	—	—	—
United Nations police	300	164	164	125	102	78	61	—	—	—	—

12. The estimated requirements for military and police personnel for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 amount to $50,625,300, a decrease of $143,522,200, or 73.9 per cent, compared with the appropriation for 2009/10.

13. The proposed decrease is attributable to the gradual drawdown and subsequent liquidation of the Mission, which will result in the repatriation of all uniformed personnel over the period from 1 July to 31 December 2010. No delayed recruitment factor was computed as budget estimates are based on the actual staffing complement for July 2010 and the proposed drawdown schedule.

2. Civilian personnel

		Deployment schedule									
		2010						*2011*			
	Authorized strength	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*
International staff	595	399	397	385	358	309	288	185	140	96	50
National staff	769	606	606	606	606	606	243	243	184	122	61
United Nations Volunteers	201	145	145	130	119	117	50	50	38	26	13
Temporary positions	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	—	—	—	—
Government-provided personnel	25	21	21	19	16	16	14	—	—	—	—

14. The estimated requirements for civilian personnel for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 amount to $44,748,200, a decrease of $43,362,500, or 49.2 per cent, compared with the appropriation for 2009/10. The reduced requirements are attributable to the gradual drawdown and subsequent liquidation of the Mission, partially offset by funding for payment of a termination indemnity to national staff and to international staff that will not be reassigned to other field missions.

15. Upon inquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, based on current projections, 70 per cent of international staff will be reassigned to other field

missions. There is a requirement to pay a termination indemnity to the remaining 30 per cent who will be separated from the United Nations. National staff will also be paid a termination indemnity. **The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the staffing proposals of the Secretary-General.**

3. Operational costs

Apportioned 2009/10	*Proposed 2010/11*	*Variance*
408 464 900	143 723 100	(264 741 800)

16. The estimated operational requirements for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 amount to $143,723,100, a decrease of $264,741,800, or 64.8 per cent, compared with the appropriation for 2009/10. The decrease is attributable to the drawdown and liquidation of the Mission, partially offset by an increase for consultants.

17. The Secretary-General is requesting $217,000 for consultants, which includes non-training consultants to support the Mission during the drawdown and liquidation periods. Upon inquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that technical specialists are required during the Mission's drawdown and liquidation phases in view of the short-term surge in activities during the movement of contingents. The experts are required in sectors such as movement control and aviation cargo as some MINURCAT staff will have been reassigned. The consultants will be retained for two months to act as cargo planners, freight planners and ramp managers, among other functional duties.

18. In response to the Advisory Committee's inquiry as to the technical dimension of the functions that would require consultants rather than staff, the Committee was informed that it is more cost effective to hire consultants on a short-term basis than to bring personnel from other missions on temporary duty assignments as this would incur expenses such as travel costs and daily subsistence allowance. The Committee was also informed that there are difficulties in obtaining personnel from other missions with relevant experience in the key areas required, as well as difficulties in obtaining their release from the originating mission in a timely manner.

19. It is proposed that the Mission maintain 10 fixed-wing and 15 rotary-wing aircraft through 31 December 2010, and retain three fixed-wing and three rotary-wing aircraft for the liquidation period. Upon inquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the six aircraft are required during the liquidation period for medical evacuations in light of reduced medical capabilities in the Mission; to provide evacuation capabilities in the absence of United Nations troops; to provide intra-mission transport of staff and goods; and to provide monitoring capabilities from remote landing sites.

20. **The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the requested resources under operational costs. The Committee urges the Secretary-General to take all necessary steps to reduce operational expenditure to the extent possible in light of the impending closure of the Mission.**

IV. Other matters

Projects

21. In his report to the Security Council on the Mission (S/2010/409), the Secretary-General pointed out that the Mission was proceeding with construction of infrastructure in support of DIS (para. 62), the initiation of which was referred to in paragraph 14 of Security Council resolution 1923 (2010). Upon inquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that it was expected that some construction work relating to 19 DIS projects, water drilling and mine-clearing activities would continue during the liquidation period. **The Committee recommends that the Mission provide detailed information on the effectiveness of these and other substantive activities conducted during the liquidation period in the context of the 2010/11 performance report.**

Disposal of assets

22. The Advisory Committee was informed that the Mission's current asset disposal plan calls for assets with a total inventory value of $101 million to be transferred to other peacekeeping missions; assets with an inventory value of $6.5 million to be transferred to special political missions; assets with an inventory value of $3.7 million to be sold to United Nations organizations in the country; assets with an inventory value of $18.4 million to be sold in the country through competitive bidding; and assets valued at $22.4 million to be handed over to the Governments of the Central African Republic and Chad to strengthen their capacity to consolidate gains achieved with MINURCAT. Upon inquiry, the Committee was informed that the Mission did not expect to encounter difficulties with customs and clearances in transferring assets out of the country.

23. The Board of Auditors, in its report contained in document A/63/5 (Vol. II), chapter II, recommended that MINURCAT complete physical inventory checks and carry out receipt and inspection procedures in a timely fashion. Upon inquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that every effort was made by the Mission to update its inventory records. **The Committee stresses the need to maintain accurate inventory records, particularly in light of the liquidation of the Mission.**

V. Conclusion

24. The actions to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the financing of MINURCAT for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 are indicated in paragraph 68 of the proposed budget (A/65/487). **Subject to its comments and observations in the paragraphs above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly appropriate an amount of $239,096,600 for the maintenance and liquidation of the Mission from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011.**

25. **The Advisory Committee is of the opinion that assessment is not required at this time beyond the amount of $184,949,000 already assessed for the period 1 July to 31 December 2010 as the cash presently available to the Mission should be sufficient to meet envisaged requirements (see para. 6 above). Final requirements should be reported in the context of the performance report.**

Documentation

- Budget for the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 (A/65/487)
- Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (S/2010/409)
- Report of the Board of Auditors on the accounts of the United Nations peacekeeping operations for the financial period ended 30 June 2009 (A/64/5 (Vol. II), chap. II)
- Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 and financial arrangements for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2010 for the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (A/64/660/Add.15)
- General Assembly resolution 64/286
- Security Council resolutions 1778 (2007) and 1923 (2010)

Annex

Projected expenditures for the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad for the period from 1 October 2010 to 30 April 2011

Expenditure class	Actual expenditure 1 July to 30 Sep. 2010	Projected expenditure 2010 Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total mandate period	Projected expenditure 2011 Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	Total for liquidation period	Total expenditure 1 July 2010-30 April 2011
I. Military and police personnel											
212 Military observers	377.6	204.7	171.4	—	753.8	—	—	—	—	—	753.8
213 Military contingents	11 009.7	7 727.2	15 091.0	11 926.8	45 754.7	—	—	—	—	—	45 754.7
214 Civilian police	2 784.6	602.1	418.7	313.8	4 119.2	—	—	—	—	—	4 119.2
216 Formed police units	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Subtotal	**14 172.0**	**8 534.0**	**15 681.1**	**12 240.6**	**50 627.7**	—	—	—	—	—	**50 627.7**
II. Civilian personnel											
221 International staff	17 396.5	4 141.3	3 452.0	3 010.8	28 000.6	2 186.3	1 453.7	747.3	196.8	4 584.2	32 584.8
222 National staff	2 195.3	1 539.4	1 553.1	1 280.0	6 567.9	428.7	196.5	125.2	80.1	830.6	7 398.4
223 United Nations Volunteers	1 507.9	843.1	836.8	601.6	3 789.4	353.2	302.2	162.1	118.5	936.0	4 725.4
224 General temporary assistance	—	25.7	17.1	10.5	53.3	—	—	—	—	—	53.3
Subtotal	**21 099.7**	**6 549.5**	**5 859.0**	**4 902.9**	**38 411.1**	**2 968.2**	**1 952.5**	**1 034.6**	**395.4**	**6 350.8**	**44 761.9**
III. Operational costs											
225 Government-provided personnel	341.0	92.8	92.8	83.7	610.2	—	—	—	—	—	610.2
226 Civilian electoral observers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
227 Consultants	2.9	54.4	54.4	68.9	180.5	10.8	10.8	10.8	10.7	43.0	223.5
228 Official travel	401.6	195.6	141.2	117.0	855.4	42.7	31.1	17.4	17.4	108.7	964.0
230 Facilities infrastructure	23 050.8	8 401.5	7 303.2	4 624.3	43 379.8	6 970.5	3 712.2	295.4	295.4	11 273.5	54 653.3
231 Ground transportation	2 694.5	1 080.0	1 080.0	281.8	5 136.2	285.1	268.8	268.8	268.8	1 091.5	6 227.7
232 Air transportation	36 023.6	5 214.6	5 214.6	4 831.5	51 284.4	2 247.6	1 771.2	1 810.8	2 370.8	8 200.5	59 484.9
233 Naval transportation	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
234 Communications	1 748.8	277.7	277.7	255.4	2 559.6	182.4	160.0	160.0	160.0	662.4	3 222.0
235 Information technology	826.5	162.5	162.5	171.4	1 322.8	71.2	80.0	80.0	80.0	311.2	1 634.0
236 Medical	44.9	417.6	417.6	414.5	1 294.6	55.7	52.6	52.6	52.6	213.5	1 508.1

Expenditure class	Actual expenditure 1 July to 30 Sep. 2010	Projected expenditure 2010 Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total mandate period	Projected expenditure 2011 Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	Total for liquidation period	Total expenditure 1 July 2010-30 April 2011
237 Special equipment	—	140.0	140.0	140.0	420.0	—	—	—	—	—	420.0
238 Miscellaneous supplies, services and equipment	2 669.1	2 356.3	2 265.9	1 952.0	9 243.2	1 272.9	1 273.3	1 273.3	1 273.3	5 093.0	14 336.2
239 Quick-impact projects	110.6	43.9	43.9	43.9	242.1	—	—	—	—	—	242.1
Subtotal	**67 914.2**	**18 436.7**	**17 193.7**	**12 984.2**	**116 528.7**	**11 138.9**	**7 360.1**	**3 969.1**	**4 529.0**	**26 997.2**	**143 525.9**
Total	**103 185.9**	**33 520.3**	**38 733.8**	**30 127.6**	**205 567.5**	**14 107.2**	**9 312.6**	**5 003.8**	**4 924.5**	**33 348.0**	**238 915.5**

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Sixty-fifth session
Agenda item 41
Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba

Letter dated 21 October 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Final Declaration of the Seventh Forum of Cuban Civil Society against the Embargo, adopted in Havana on 20 October 2010 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this note and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly under agenda item 41.

(*Signed*) Pedro **Núñez Mosquera**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 21 October 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Final Declaration of the Seventh Forum of Cuban Civil Society against the Embargo

20 October 2010

The 139 organizations of Cuban civil society and regional and international organizations with headquarters in Cuba, meeting in Havana on 20 October 2010, at the Seventh Forum of Cuban Civil Society against the Economic, Commercial and Financial Embargo by the United States against the Cuban People, following the positions adopted at previous Forums and having deliberated on the current state of the situation reported on at them, have agreed to state the following:

1. On 28 October 2009, the United Nations General Assembly adopted by 187 votes in favour resolution 64/6 entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba", which urges the Government of the United States of America to lift the embargo imposed unilaterally by the authorities of that country against the Cuban people, which has been in effect now for almost 50 years.

2. The Seventh Forum reaffirms the view expressed in the Final Declaration of the Sixth Forum that "the embargo against Cuba is the most prolonged, cruel and unjust ever known in the history of humanity, and represents a veritable economic war which qualifies as an act of genocide. Its fundamental declared objective has been to destroy Cuba's constitutional order, depriving its people of sovereignty and of the exercise of their right to self-determination."

3. This ongoing policy of the history of the empire's acts of aggression against the Cuban nation has failed in terms of its objectives aimed at conquering the Cuban people through hunger and disease. Nevertheless, the United States Government continues to allocate every year millions to ensure the strictest implementation of all the measures and laws that constitute the embargo and to organize internal subversion. Through the massive information and communication media subsidized by its agencies, it unleashes a media war that presents a totally distorted image of the Cuban reality, thereby intervening in our country's internal affairs, which constitutes a violation of the inalienable right of the Cuban people to their self-determination, independence and sovereignty and to adopt the economic, political and social system that best serves their interests, as reflected in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the main international instruments governing relations between nations.

4. The opposition, both international and within the United States, to the unilateral coercive measures against Cuba has continued to grow during the last year. Nevertheless, at the beginning of September 2010 President Barack Obama extended by one more year the sanctions against Cuba pursuant to the powers accorded to him under the Trading with the Enemy Act, which forms the basis for the other laws and regulations that make up the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba. This action has even been reinforced by the recent inclusion of our country in 2010 on the arbitrary "black list" of countries that support or

promote terrorist activities. These actions contrast with the statements made by the United States President himself during his electoral campaign that he would introduce changes in relations with Cuba and are in disregard of the prerogatives of the President of the United States to introduce substantive changes in this policy even without submitting them for approval by the Congress.

5. The extraterritorial nature of the embargo has not only been maintained, but has been reinforced in the past year. These unilateral sanctions against Cuba, which have a widespread effect outside the territory of the United States on companies and citizens of third countries in violation of international law, have been tightened, particularly in their application to the banking and financial sector.

6. The embargo constitutes a gross, massive and systematic violation of human rights which continues to be applied to our country with utter impunity. It violates:

- The right of our citizens to development, because the embargo has already caused losses to the Cuban economy over the past 50 years amounting to more than US$ 750 billion in current United States dollars. If the embargo did not exist, those resources could have been invested in projects for the sustainable socio-economic development of our nation;

- The right to health, since it prevents the purchase of medicines and medical equipment produced only in the United States or by subsidiaries of United States companies located in another country, and including companies of another nationality that produce them under licence, a situation that poses a risk to the lives of Cuban citizens. Cuba is obliged to acquire medicines, reagents, spare parts for medical equipment, instruments and other products in distant markets and, on many occasions, through intermediaries, which entails an increase in costs;

- The right to food, as purchases of food products from United States companies are subject to onerous and difficult conditions for Cuba. The Government of the United States continues to block those purchases and no action has been taken to conduct such sales in accordance with the rules, channels and regular practices of international trade;

- The right to education and culture, which translates, among other things, into daily shortages that affect the process of learning, research and scientific work of students and teachers, generally at all teaching levels, since it is impossible to acquire media, products and equipment in the United States market, and imposes regulations that hamper academic and scientific exchange and Cuba's access to the Internet and to new information and communication technologies.

7. The embargo not only affects the Cuban people but also violates the constitutional rights of the people of the United States by depriving them of their freedom to travel to Cuba and exposes those who choose to visit the island to severe fines and terms of imprisonment.

8. The Seventh Forum appeals to the States Members of the United Nations to support once more the draft resolution submitted by the Government of Cuba in the General Assembly as an indication of their concern and commitment in the struggle to have the embargo lifted. It also urges them to adopt practical steps to

prevent the application to their territories of United States laws and regulations that violate their own sovereignty and the principles of free trade.

9. The Seventh Forum also calls upon the President of the United States to use his broad powers to reduce or eliminate prohibitions imposed by the set of laws and regulations that make up the illegal embargo against Cuba and to exclude Cuba from the so-called list of State sponsors of international terrorism, since it is not only an arbitrary measure and an absurd policy but also provides yet another pretext for the application of the embargo.

10. The organizations of Cuban civil society and the regional and international organizations with headquarters in Cuba participating in the Seventh Forum acknowledge and thank the broad and effective solidarity shown towards our country by thousands of civil-society organizations around the world, including those in the United States, and we highly esteem their solidarity in the struggle to end the unjust and immoral policy being applied by the United States Government against our people. We appeal to them to make public their support for the draft resolution submitted by the Cuban Government, which will be considered by the General Assembly on 26 October 2010 for the nineteenth time, under the title "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba", and to redouble their efforts at the national and international level, including by sending letters to the President of the United States demanding that these unilateral coercive measures be lifted.